

AN EARLY BUTTERFLY.—Following the extraordinarily warm spell of weather at the weekend 9th/10th January when temperatures were as high as 15°C. it would not be surprising that the sighting of a dormant butterfly should come to our notice.

This was in fact the case and I should like to record that Mrs N. F. Macmillan sighted a large colourful butterfly at Bromborough, Cheshire. She tells me that it was not a small tortoseshell (*Aglais urticae* (Linn.)) being too large and more colourful and I suspect it to have been a peacock (*Nymphalis io* (Linn.)).—E. G. HANCOCK, Assistant Keeper of Invertebrate Zoology, City of Liverpool Museums. 12.i.1971.

APROPOS!—

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A FAMILIAR CONVERSATION  
ON DECIMAL COINAGE.

By J. J. STANTON.

Advertisement in H. T. Stainton's *Entomologist's Weekly Intelligencer*, Vol. 1 (No. 4): p. 32, of 26th April 1856. Was J. J. perhaps a relative of H.T.?—C. F. COWAN.

## Current Literature

**Insect Pollination of Crops** by John B. Free. xi. + 544. Academic Press Inc. (London) Ltd. £7.25 (145/-).

In his preface the author points out the scope of his work, which is to bring together under one cover the essence of the information scattered through the literature (over 1700 titles are given in the bibliography at the end of the book), so that it may be readily available to the people, from growers to research workers, who are in need of it. He acknowledges that in some cases our knowledge is still in need of further research, and in such cases he mentions the fact; he also invites new information so that it may be included in a second edition, foreseen for some time in the future. The plants are limited to those of economic importance, and excludes decorative plants and timber trees. After the index of contents, there is a short list of conversion factors for the conversion of linear, square, and avoirdupois weights and measures into their respective decimal units and *vice versa*.

Scientific names are used throughout on account of the diversity of vernacular names current in various countries, but a Plant Index may be consulted for the English names.

In chapter 1, headed introduction, the author begins by pointing out the pollination requirements of crops, and how, even with self fertile species, insect pollination can be of considerable advantage, while with plants such as European